



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
OFFICE OF INFORMATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20350

IN REPLY REFER TO

3 APR 1969

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of March 20th, concerning Navy records and the President Kennedy autopsy.

I did not mean to indicate in my letter of March 19th that the autopsy was not conducted by the Navy. I am well aware that it was. As I stated, the complete record was delivered to the White House and no records remain with the Navy.

As an information officer, I am aware of, and a supporter of, the Freedom of Information Act. The Navy, as an agency of the government, is responsive both to the requirements of law and the direction of higher authority. The essential point which I intended to make in my last letter, and in this one, is that the assassination of President Kennedy was a tragedy far surpassing strictly Navy interest. Although a naval unit and naval personnel played a part in the subsequent events, the entire matter is as far beyond the Navy in terms of providing information, as the fact of the event was beyond strictly naval interest.

As far as the Navy's public relations are concerned, I do not believe that the Navy "soils itself" by taking the position that appropriate higher authority deal with the information aspects of those matters within the purview of that authority.

I have no objection to your publishing either of my letters to you.

Sincerely,

K.W. Wade
K. W. WADE
Captain, U. S. Navy
Deputy Chief of Information